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AYASHIYA

by BANNO Mutsumi

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Ayashiya v1 c3

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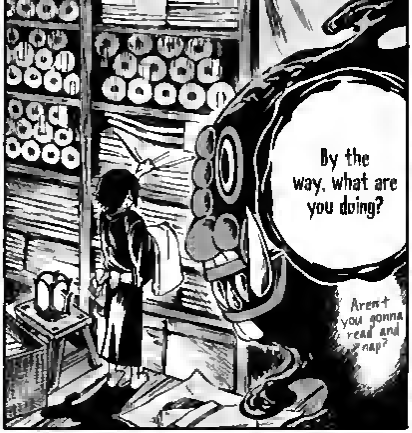
Chapter 3 Unusual Daily Life

The draper store "Ayashiya" is a large store.
There are magnificent warehouses on the premises too.
Three, to be exact.
Are you going to spend your time here again?
Shutting yourself up in the warehouse from noon to midnight.
You are making yourself even gloomier!
KREAAAAK
YOU IRRITATE ME ALL THE TIME

Well, if you are here, I can appear freely even if it's broad daylight!
HELL, IF I'M DOING THIS FOR YOU
THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE ON THE PREMISES
THAT HASN'T CHANGED SINCE THAT INCIDENT...

The Faceless Demon that attacked this residence...
Even though you have been hunting down demons for half a year, you have absolutely no leads on it.
Can you trust your memories?!
...HOW COULD I EVER FORGET THAT NIGHT...?
I NEVER EXPECTED IT BE AN EASY SEARCH AT ALL.
THERE WAS LITTLE EVIDENCE TO BEGIN WITH.
NEVER-THELESS, THERE'S STILL HOPE.
DEMONS APPEAR IN THE HUMAN WORLD THROUGH DEMON GATES.
A DEMON GATE VANISHES WHEN THE DEMONS THAT EMERGED FROM IT ARE EXTE-RMINATED.
CONVERSELY, IF THE EMERGED DEMONS ARE NOT EXTERMINATED,
THE DEMON GATE WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST IN THE HUMAN WORLD.

I'LL FIND HIM NO MATTER WHERE HE MAY BE
AND I WILL TAKE REVENGE WITH THESE HANDS...!
HE MUST STILL BE HIDING OUT SOMEWHERE IN THIS CAPITAL
It's fine to put up a brave front but don't forget you wouldn't have be capable of accomplishing that if I hadn't given you the means to do so
Ke ke ke
Besides,
if what you're saying is true,
That demon must be a helluva grand feast for me.
I will devour his soul,
So that I can regain my former powers!!
..SUIT YOURSELF.


By the way, what are you doing?
Aren't you gonna read and nap?

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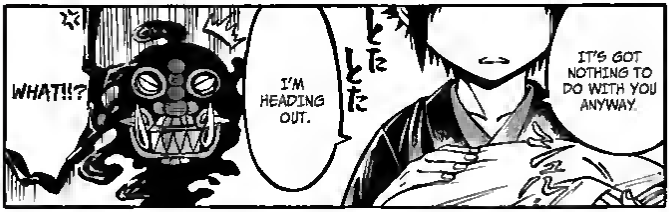

WHAT!!?
I'M HEADING OUT.
とたとた
IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU ANYWAY.

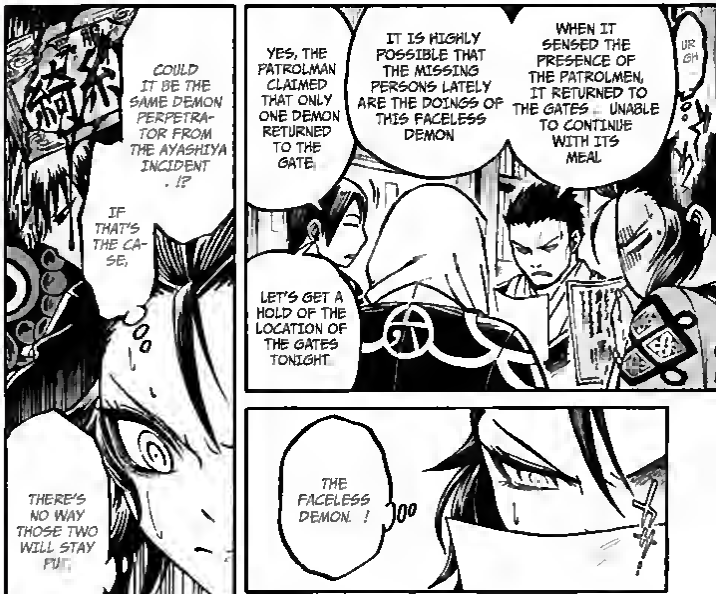
がやがや
わいわい

I GET IT. DON'T SPEAK
There's a talisman over there. Don't touch it!
...Even so, how...
I'd rather torment him to death but I don't have the power to do so now...
Damn. This isn't fun! Why do I have to become a human's shadow?!
Thank you~ Please come again!
Did we end up in this state?

茶
CREAK
Welcome~
THE NUMBER OF MISSING PERSONS HAS INCREASED AGAIN.
MIGHT AS WELL GET SOME TEA LEAVES WHILE I'M HERE
HEH.
I SAW IT IN THE LATEST NEWSPAPERS JUST NOW
AND HE GAVE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEMON BEFORE HE TOOK HIS LAST BREATH...
ONE OF THE VICTIMS WAS FOUND
OH, RIGHT.
AT THIS RATE, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO WALK AROUND AT NIGHT.
AH, THEY MUST HAVE BEEN EATEN BY DEMONS.
Sigh...
AREN'T MORE DEMON GATES APPEARING LATELY??
MMM?
SO CREEPY~~~~~
ANYWAY THE DEMON THAT ATTACKED HIM DOESN'T HAVE A FACE...!

T/N A REPORT ON THE INCIDENT OF A FACELESS DEMON

BY THE WAY, THE CAUSE OF DEATH IS A WOUND TO HIS NECK.
THERE WERE MARKS THAT INDICATED THE DEMON HAD TWISTED HIS HEAD BY BRUTE FORCE
THIS IS THE IMPORTANT INFORMATION LEFT BEHIND FOR US
FROM THE VICTIM WHO WAS DISCOVERED YESTERDAY.


COULD IT BE THE SAME DEMON PERPETRATOR FROM THE AYASHIYA INCIDENT . !?
IF THAT'S THE CASE,
THERE'S NO WAY THOSE TWO WILL STAY PUT.
YES, THE PATROLMAN CLAIMED THAT ONLY ONE DEMON RETURNED TO THE GATE.
IT IS HIGHLY POSSIBLE THAT THE MISSING PERSONS LATELY ARE THE DOINGS OF THIS FACELESS DEMON
WHEN IT SENSED THE PRESENCE OF THE PATROLMEN, IT RETURNED TO THE GATES ... UNABLE TO CONTINUE WITH ITS MEAL
UR GH
LET'S GET A HOLD OF THE LOCATION OF THE GATES TONIGHT.
THE FACELESS DEMON. !

THE 6TH SQUAD WILL DEAL WITH THIS DEMON TONIGHT!
WE HAVE DESTROYED THE GATES ONE AFTER ANOTHER UPON VERIFICATION.
ONCE THE SUN SETS, THE HIDDEN DEMON GATES WILL APPEAR AT NIGHT AGAIN AND THE GATES WILL OPEN
DEMON GATES HAVE BEEN APPEARING QUITE FREQUENTLY LATELY.
LOOKS LIKE THINGS HAVE TAKEN A TURN FOR THE WORST...!
.....
YES, SIR!
It's too soon to wear that.
CAPTAIN, PLEASE DON'T MUNCH ON SWEETS IN A MEETING.
IT MUST BE BECAUSE OF THE PADDED KIMONO
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
EH!
AH!
SAKI-CHAN, WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU'RE SWEATING PROFUSELY.

12 T/N: ARCHAIC CHANTING

That is a very strong barrier.
That's understandable since there is only one target tonight.
PADDED KIMONO
Yes!
Saki!!
What will you do, Jin?!
.....
one way or another.
Those guys intend to kill it in one go,

13

I FEEL BAD JUST AFTER I SAID THAT,
BUT THERE'S NO WAY I WOULD LET THIS PASS..
I have no intention of getting in the way of demon exterminating officials...
I might change my mind if you get in the way of the Demon Raid Squad!

LET'S GO. DAMARI.
...IT'S HERE.

どんっ
どんっ
ドカ
ドカ
ドカ

NOW!!!

?!!!
THE SPELL...
WHAT HAPPENED?
WE CAN'T ACTIVATE IT!! SEEMS LIKE THE TALISMANS ARE DAMAGED!
IMPOSSIBLE...
...
LIGHT THE LAMPS!
HURRY !!

!!
HIE...

chant
URGH
IS THAT IT!?
CHECK THE DEMON GATE!!

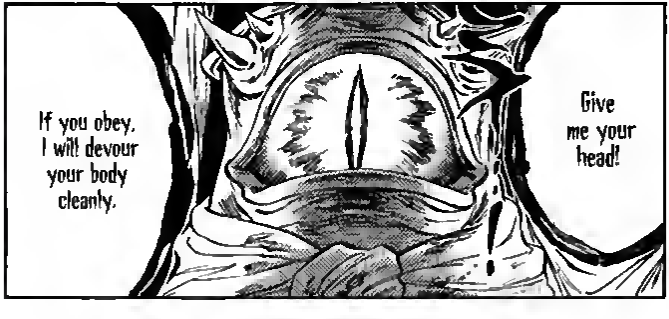
1
CREAK...
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
IT DIDN'T VANISH ...DID IT ESCAPE?
THEN WHAT WAS THAT THING ?!
IS IT A FAMILIAR OF THE FACELESS DEMON...
NO...
THIS IS...
THE HEAD OF ONE OF THE MISSING PEOPLE ...!!

AFTER IT!!
IT CAN'T BE..
IT MUST BE THEM..!
FIND AND DESTROY THAT DEMON AT ALL COSTS!!

1

GRA GRA GRA GRA !!
GEGE GEGE GRA GRA
CEASE THAT JARRING LAUGHTER
Gegegragra I can't help laughing like this.
Gegegege
You did well to separate it from the Demon Raid Squad.
So, Jin?
Is this the one you want to exact revenge on...?

Far from being faceless,
It's headless!!


Give me your head!
If you obey, I will devour your body cleanly.

1

Well well,
so this human has been booked?
Oh ...?
A huge case of mistaken demon identity!
.....
DAMN. I GOT AHEAD OF MYSELF... HOW WILL I CLEAN UP THIS MESS...?
Hunt for my grub like you always do!
Hihihihi no way.
Well well...
...this is inexcu-sable.
Hand over that human!
SHUT UP! BE A LITTLE QUIET.
DON'T YOU GET IT?!
Suck it up!
I WON'T GET OFF SO EASILY THIS TIME..
I GOT IN THE WAY OF THE SQUAD SO BLATANTLY

Ah.
I'll tear him apart.
Give me your head.
.....

!?
Dear me...
Such a glaring misunderstandin, small fry.
Well, it's the same for us.
You're the one who doesn't get it, Jin.
Hunt this demon.
You haven't forgotten, have you?

W-what!
What's going on...
How did the human recover from a wound inflicted by demonic powers!
No!
Could you be a human and demon in one?!!!!!
WHY IS A DEMON'S KILLING AURA DIRECTED TOWARDS ANOTHER?!!
So what's the reason Jin?!
For this situation that we're in.

1
I protect your body
and you protect my soul.
How annoying. We are bound by destiny!

If you don't hunt down demons, I'll exhaust my strength.
.....
If I die,
So will you...!

THIS IS THE END.
NOW ANSWER ME.

DO YOU KNOW OF THE FACELESS DEMON?
...I... don't know...
I don't know...!

!?
WHAT... IN THE WORLD ...?
...
CAPTAIN!
IMPOS-SIBLE!
WHAT IS GOING ON?
THE DEMON GATE IS VANISHING...?!

I WILL CUT MY TIES WITH YOU ONE DAY
IF I CAN'T RETURN TO MY FORMER SELF, I WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP MY PROMISE OF LEADING A SIMPLE AND HONEST LIFE
I CAN'T DIE YET
I MADE A PROMISE WITH EVERYONE
AND TO ACCOMPLISH THAT
I HAVE TO SOLVE THE AYASHIYA INCIDENT WITH MY OWN HANDS.

ヒソヒソ…
のたまき
SOME-HOW,
……
A LOT OF THINGS WENT THROUGH MY MIND
LAST NIGHT
GOOD MORNING..
AH! ARE YOU SAKI, THE TRAINEE!?

1
Thank you very much~
W-WHAT IS THIS?
?
!?
PLEASE SIGN HERE.
HERE'S YOUR PARCEL!
HELLO, I'M FROM TAKEUMA DELIVERY!
UWAH!
33
!.....
To Trainee Saki,
I pity you for having only one set of good padded kimono. So this is for you.
flip
Hey~
The noisy one is here.
カンカン
カンカン!!

I'VE RECEIVED THIS...
IS THIS REALLY ALL RIGHT!?
AH, YOUNG MASTER!
WAIT!
SPEAKING OF WHICH, YOU DID IT!!
YOU INTERFERED WITH US LAST NIGHT, DIDN'T YOU?!!
CALM DOWN

DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT YOU UNDERSTOOD THE DESIRE FOR VENGEANCE LAST TIME?
UH...
AREN'T WE IN THE SAME BOAT?
WHA... NO!
BUT
BECAUSE OF THAT...
ISN'T IT JUST A MATTER OF TIME...
BEFORE YOU AND DAMARI'S EXISTENCE COMES TO LIGHT...?!
YOU ARE TOO LOUD.
LET'S CONTINUE THIS TALK INSIDE.
EH... AH
HEY, WAIT!
BE-FORE THAT,
IS IT REALLY ALL RIGHT?!
WELL, THIS IS TO BE EXPECTED FROM THE YOUNG MASTER OF A DRAPERY STORE
BUT WHY.

YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON TO ADDRESS ME THAT WAY EVER SINCE THAT INCIDENT.
"YOUNG MASTER"
HUH?
IT FEELS AS IF I'VE RETURNED TO LIFE BEFORE THE INCIDENT.. EVEN BY A LITTLE
IT MADE ME HAPPY
AS A SIGN OF MY GRATITUDE,
...YOUNG MASTER...
I'LL GIVE YOU A SPECIAL DISCOUNT OF 30%
YOU'RE STILL CHARGING ME!!

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